



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FLEET AIR RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON ONE
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96601

SQUADRON HISTORY

Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron ONE had its origin at the Naval Station, Sangley Point, Philippines during October of 1951. At that time a Special Projects Division of the Air Operations Department was formed to meet the changing needs of the Fleet. This division was organized as an electronic countermeasures group in the Pacific Fleet, and on 12 May 1953, the division was assigned to Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE as detachment "Able". The detachment was re-organized in June of 1955 and designated Electronics Countermeasure Squadron ONE. The Squadron eventually moved to NAS Atsugi, Japan and received its present name, Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron ONE. During its early years, the Squadron made extensive use of the P-4M and the P-2. However, due to an increase in size and tasking, the aircraft inventory expanded to include the EC-121 "Super Constellation". Aircraft presently used within the Squadron include the EA-3B "Skywarrior", EP-3B "Orion", and the EC-121.

In June 1971, VQ-1 underwent its biggest change when it moved from Japan to the island of Guam. In addition to its broad mission of electronic reconnaissance, the missions of weather reconnaissance and high altitude photography were added with the absorption of Airborne Early Warning Squadron ONE (VW-1) and Heavy Photographic Squadron SIXTY-ONE (VAP-61).

The Squadron, for a brief time, shouldered the mission of typhoon and weather reconnaissance from the International Dateline to the Malay Peninsula. The weather mission was discontinued at the end of the 1971 typhoon season, but the squadron has retained the photographic reconnaissance capabilities with three former VAP-61 RA-3B aircraft. VQ-1 is now the only organization boasting advanced worldwide photographic and cartographic mapping capabilities.

The primary mission of VQ-1 is to conduct electronic reconnaissance missions in support of fleet operations in order to obtain information and intelligence on areas and targets of Naval interest.

To perform its mission, the squadron operates in many areas of the Western Pacific. In an era of specialization, Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron ONE has become a jack of all trades and has earned the name "WESTPAC World Watchers".